



HIFA in 2017

The Year in Review

and Objectives for 2018

Healthcare Information For All

www.hifa.org

What is HIFA?

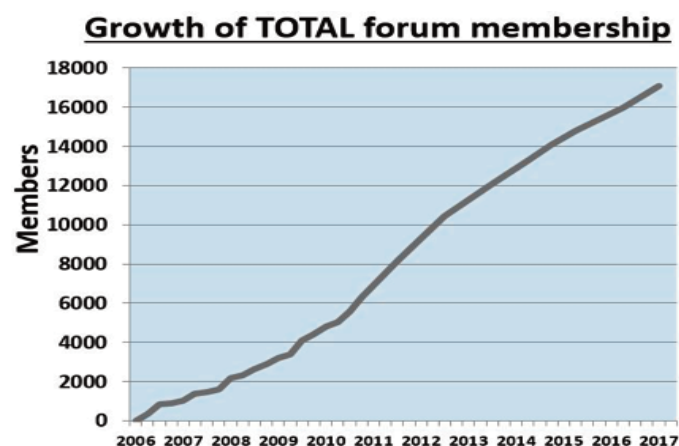
HIFA is a dynamic global movement and knowledge network with a shared vision:

"A world where every person and every health worker has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others."

Why we need to achieve the HIFA vision

Every day thousands of children and adults die needlessly because they do not receive basic life-saving interventions - interventions that are often locally available but are simply not provided due to indecision, delays, misdiagnosis, and incorrect treatment. Many would still be alive today if those responsible for their care had access to basic healthcare information. For example, **4 in 10 mothers of children with diarrhoea in India believe they should withhold fluids**, contributing to nearly **1000** deaths every day in India alone. HIFA members report similar examples in all low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), across the full spectrum of healthcare.

How is HIFA working to end this crisis?

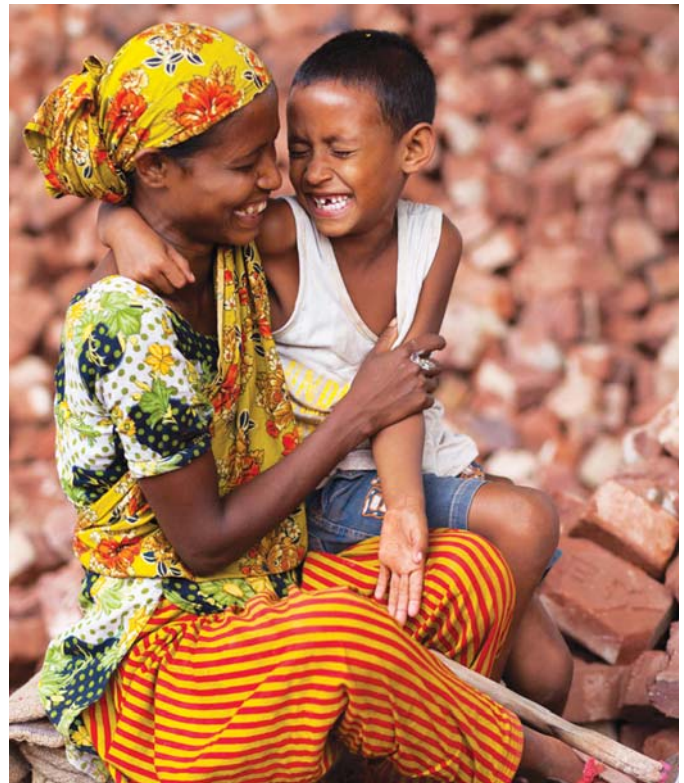


At the heart of HIFA is a virtual 'think-tank' of over **17,500** members from **177** countries, interacting across **5** forums in **3** languages (**English, French, Portuguese**). They represent the full range of providers and users of health information (health workers, publishers, librarians, researchers, policymakers, social scientists, human rights advocates, patient representatives, and others). HIFA members **communicate** about how to improve the availability and use of healthcare information in LMICs, sharing expertise and experiential knowledge unavailable elsewhere, thereby increasing collective **understanding** of the issues from global to local level, and shaping our **advocacy** for the political and financial support needed to accelerate progress towards the HIFA vision.

HIFA Community

In 2017 we exceeded our target of **17,000** and increased our total membership by **11%** to **17,792** in **177** countries.

- Membership of **HIFA** (English) increased by **14%** to **10,868**



- Membership of **CHIFA** (Child Health and Rights) increased by **12%** to **3,505**, as a result of the combined efforts of the CHIFA moderators, **International Child Health Group**, and **International Society for Social Paediatrics and Child Health**.
- Membership of **HIFA-French** increased by **10%** to **790**, under the leadership of Isabelle Wachsmuth (Head of Linguistic Partnerships, WHO)
- Our work with the **Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance** helped increase the membership of **HIFA-Zambia** by **7%** to **486**.

2018 OBJECTIVES

- Increase total membership to **>20,000** members
- Launch HIFA-Spanish in early 2018
- Increase membership from Central Asia, China, Eastern Europe, Eastern Mediterranean and Russia.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Join HIFA today and interact on the forums!

HIFA Voices

HIFA members share their experiential knowledge and expertise across the HIFA forums to create an evolving picture of health information needs and, crucially, how to meet them. Key points are uploaded to **HIFA Voices**, a searchable open-access database.

2018 OBJECTIVES

- Identify and collate content from ongoing forum discussions Jan-Dec 2018.
- Support **3** health librarians in **3** African countries to create Health Library and Information Science bibliographies

HIFA Advocacy

"Healthcare Information For All is an ambitious goal but it can be achieved if all stakeholders work together."

World Health Organization

Achieving and sustaining the HIFA Vision requires the support of decision makers. That is why HIFA has evolved a multi-level advocacy strategy, harnessing the full range of resources within our network: individuals, organizations, and expertise.

HIFA Country Representative Programme (CRP)

"I am so happy to join HIFA as a Country Representative. It's a thrilling opportunity to make an impact and to spread the HIFA vision wider."

Vivek Podder, Medical Student, Tairunnessa Memorial Medical College, Bangladesh

HIFA Country Representatives (CRs) help to grow our membership in each country, and raise awareness about the importance of access to healthcare information.

In 2017, we:

- Expanded our HIFA CRP to **183** CRs in **82** countries.
- Expanded our CHIFA CRP to **48** CRs in **41** countries.
- Created dedicated Communities of Practice (CoPs) to support CR communication and coordination.

We provided technical support to a number of CRs, including:

Gladys Dadzie (Ghana) to plan and deliver a [HIFA Awareness Day in Accra, Ghana](#) (sponsored by local organisations) and to launch and provide guidance on a WhatsApp health education service: Your Health Matters Ghana (March 2017).

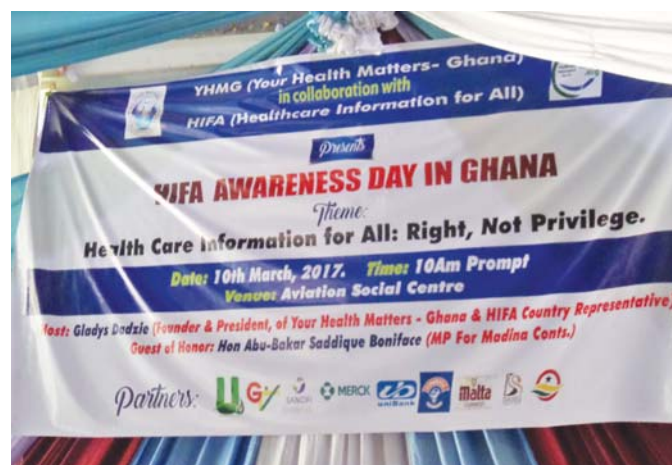
Didier Demassosso (Cameroon) to plan and implement a [HIFA Awareness Day in Yaounde, Cameroon](#) (sponsored by local organisations) (April 2017).

2018 OBJECTIVE

Expand HIFA CR programme to at least 200 representatives in at least 90 countries.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Join HIFA as a Country Representative!



HIFA Awareness Day Ghana



HIFA Awareness Day Cameroon



HIFA Supporting Organisation Programme (SOP)

More than 300 health and development organisations worldwide have declared their support for the HIFA vision and display their logos on the HIFA website. Fifty SOs also gave a financial contribution in 2017. Financial SOs are recognized on our home page, conference presentations, and publications (see back page).

In 2017 we achieved the following

- Ratified **21** new HIFA SOs, bringing the total to **310** in **63** countries
- Expanded our new CHIFA SOP to **17** SOs in **10** countries.

2018 OBJECTIVE

Ratify at least **40** new HIFA SOs, bringing the total to at least **350**

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Apply for membership of HIFA as a Supporting Organisation (without financial obligation)

Conferences and collaborations

Throughout 2017, HIFA continued collaboration with the International Confederation of Midwives, Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation, and WaterAid on the Healthy Start campaign for quality healthcare for all.

The HIFA Coordinator gave several presentations during 2017, including UK-East African Healthcare Summit, British Medical Association, London (April); International Congress of Medical Librarians, Dublin (June); HIFA and Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice (webinar hosted by

Global Evidence Synthesis, Lebanon) (September), and HIFA and Evidence-Informed Humanitarian Action (webinar hosted by the US National Library of Medicine)(November). An interview with the HIFA Coordinator was published in eHealth News, January 2017.

Social media

The HIFA Social Media Group expanded to 8 volunteers, with leads in place for Twitter (@hifa_org), Facebook (HIFAdotORG), LinkedIn and YouTube. During 2017 Twitter followers increased by 22% to 2556. Likes on HIFA Facebook increased by 26% to 1396. HIFA produced 3 YouTube videos, 29 news articles and 8 HIFA Blogs.

2018 OBJECTIVE

Continue to build our Social Media presence through Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube and other media.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Connect with HIFA on **Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube!**

HIFA Photographer of the Year Award

HIFA was proud to continue our collaboration with Photoshare, a service of the Knowledge for Health (K4Health) project, based at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Communication Programs (CCP), helping international nonprofit organizations communicate health and development issues through photography. The winner of the HIFA Photographer of the Year in 2017 is Subrata Dey for his image of street children (below) lining up for a free treatment program provided by a nonprofit organization in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Many other winners in the 2017 Photoshare contest are featured in this Review (see back page for credits).



HIFA and WHO

“Linguistic partnerships will scale-up knowledge on quality to English, French and Portuguese-speaking populations and capture feedback and views from all stakeholders involved in Universal Health Coverage, supported by Health Information For All (HIFA) forums in different languages.”

World Health Organization 2017

In 2017, our partnership with WHO was strengthened by a number of key developments:

- Steering Group member [Isabelle Wachsmuth](#) met with the WHO Director-General (Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus) in October 2017 to discuss Linguistic Partnerships and HIFA.
- WHO has explicitly recognised the value of HIFA as a unique tool to: (a) promote global health communication in multiple languages and, (b) to explore ways to ensure that every person, every health worker and every policymaker has access to the healthcare information they need in a language they can understand.
- HIFA is continuing to collaborate closely with WHO and PAHO on HIFA-French, HIFA-Portuguese and (to be launched in early 2018) HIFA-Spanish.
- The HIFA Steering Group now has four WHO staff members (two at HQ; one at PAHO; one at Uganda Country Office) as well as two recently retired senior staff members and one WHO consultant. We also have WHO representation among our Country Representatives and on seven HIFA Project working groups (below).



- HIFA and WHO are now exploring possibilities for development and launch of new HIFA Forums in other languages and a new HIFA Project on Multilingualism (below) has been established to drive this work.
- In December 2017 the WHO Legal Department approved a Memorandum of Understanding for further WHO-HIFA Collaboration in 2018 and beyond.

2018 OBJECTIVES

We shall continue to expand our collaborative activities with WHO during 2018, as we prepare to apply for NGO in Official Relations in late 2018/19.



HIFA Projects

HIFA Projects are delivered by HIFA members through working groups which lead the wider HIFA community in focused discussion, increasing understanding and advocacy around the Project theme. As we enter 2018 HIFA is supporting 12 Projects, including three new Projects launched during 2017:

1. HIFA Project on Library and Information Services

- Worked with Public Health England to produce an [Evidence Briefing](#), "What is the evidence around knowledge and library service provision and knowledge management to support global health, and disaster and emergency preparedness?"
- Hosted a session on LIS for Global Health at the International Congress of Medical Librarians in Dublin (June 2017).
- Led the HIFA community in two 6-week thematic discussions: 1. Library and Information Services for Disasters, Emergencies, Disease Outbreaks ([full text](#); [summary](#)); and 2. Evidence-Informed Humanitarian Action (Oct-Nov 2017) ([full text](#); [summary](#)).

2. HIFA Project on Multilingualism

- To promote communication, understanding and advocacy around issues relating to healthcare information needs in different languages; and
- To promote and strengthen synergy (eg scope, moderation approach, branding), development and cross-fertilisation across HIFA forums in different languages, thereby enhancing multilingual global health communication.

3. Newborn Care

- Supported by the Every Newborn Action Plan and the LSHTM, with technical support from COINN (Council of International Neonatal Nurses), Korle Bu University (Ghana), Makerere University (Uganda), Save The Children, USAID, and WHO.

Projects launched before 2017 have continued to flourish:

Access to Health Research

- Led HIFA to identify and address [Seven Priorities for Action 2017-18](#), including promotion of Open Access, action on predatory journals, and support for journals from LMICs.

Evaluating the Impact of Healthcare Information

- Assisted WHO with recommendations following publication in November 2016 of [Evaluation of the Impact of WHO Publications](#). A webinar was held on this subject in October with plans for further collaboration in 2018.



Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice

- Led thematic discussion about Systematic Reviews on the HIFA forum - [summary here](#).
- Published Study of 'Cochrane on HIFA' (with the University of Ottawa)
- Presented poster on [Implementation Research](#) (above left) at the Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, South Africa (13-16 Sept) along with two case studies on [Evidence-Informed Country Level Policymaking](#) and [Systematic Reviews](#).

Information for Citizens, Parents and Children

- Led several discussions on the HIFA forums, and worked with the HIFA Social Media group to advocate for health information in alignment with the full calendar of World Health Days. The HIFA and CHIFA communities are used every month by [Children For Health](#) to provide feedback on key health messages for children as they are developed.

Information for Community Health Workers

- Held a major thematic discussion on the HIFA forums ([summary here](#)), leading to the First International Conference on CHWs, Kampala).
- Launched four WhatsApp groups in local languages in India and Uganda and linked them with HIFA, thereby giving a voice to CHWs at global level.

Information for Prescribers and Users of Medicines

- Completed a scoping review of the information needs of prescribers and users of medicines in LMICs and facilitated a structured thematic discussion on HIFA around the 6 emerging themes. The group presented their findings as a [poster](#) (above right) at the UK Medicines Information Conference, Birmingham, September 2017.

- An information needs survey of 250 medical students at Eldoret University, Kenya was completed and submitted for publication. Discussions ongoing about collaborations with LSHTM and WHO.

Mobile Healthcare Information For All

- Published 'Assessment of mHealth applications for their potential to provide healthcare information for citizens in low resource settings'.
- Presented 'Rapid Methods to Assess the Potential Impact of Digital Health Interventions, and their Application to Low Resource Settings' at the Digital Health 2017 Conference, London, July 2017.

Family Planning

- Held online survey on Availability/Use of Information for Family Planning and Contraception.
- Supported a 6-week thematic discussion on Meeting the Family Planning and Contraception information needs of adolescents, girls, women, and men ([summary here](#)).

2018 OBJECTIVES

Discussions are ongoing about potential new Projects, including Mental Health, Non-Communicable Diseases, Palliative Care, Person-Centred Medicine, Progressive Government Action, and Where There is No Internet.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Join a Project working group; suggest a new Project; provide technical and financial support:
Contact the HIFA Coordinator



Staff and volunteers

Current staff

- 1 full-time professional staff member, 1 part-time office manager, 1 CHIFA Desk Officer (4h/week), 2 new HIFA Desk Officers (each 4h/w).

Volunteers

We could not have achieved this work without our volunteers. They are critical to our success and in 2017 we increased their number from **200** to almost **250**. Volunteers provide time and expertise for our growing number of Projects, our HIFA and CHIFA CR programmes, HIFA Steering Group, HIFA Social Media Group, and a wide range of supportive and administrative tasks. Details of our volunteers can be found on the HIFA website.

The HIFA Steering Group has conservatively estimated that HIFA's volunteer base is equivalent to at least **£90,000** per year in terms of donated time and expertise.

The pace and scale of growth described above could not have been achieved without the continued support of the BMA, which continues to be our main funder (£10,000 per annum), together with financial contributions from more 50 Supporting Organisations and personal donations from HIFA members, providing a total income of nearly £50,000 in 2017.

2018 OBJECTIVES

- Recruit more HIFA and CHIFA Desk Officers
- Expand our volunteer base
- Increase our annual turnover to £60,000.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Contact the HIFA Coordinator (Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh: neil@hifa.org) for further information and to discuss opportunities for sponsorship and collaboration.

Thank you to our supporters

We would like to thank more than 300 supporting organisations who have declared their support for the HIFA vision, and especially the following 50 organisations for their financial support in 2017:



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HIFA and **CHIFA** are part of **HIFA Global Forums**, which also include **HIFA-Portuguese** and **HIFA-French** (both in collaboration with WHO) and **HIFA-Zambia** (with the Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance)

HIFA is administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network, a non-profit organisation registered in the UK.

Contact: Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh, HIFA Coordinator: neil@hifa.org